

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Thus, there remained a need for an automatic web transfer mechanism that could provide increased reliability, robustness and cost effectiveness. A mechanism capable of delivering these characteristics is disclosed in copending commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/383,019 by Jespersen, filed August 25, 1999, now U.S. Patent Number 6,354,533. The sheet material dispenser disclosed in the Jespersen application uses a web transfer arm that remains positioned away from the feed path of the transferred web, to thus reduce the possibility of the transfer mechanism interfering with the web material as it is dispensed. The dispenser eliminates double sheet dispensing from the reserve and working rolls by sensing the presence or absence of the working web at the backside of the main feed roller.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

It is another specific object of the invention to provide a web transfer mechanism that may be implemented by adaption or retrofit of existing ~~dispensers~~ dispenser designs embodying a feed roller incorporated cutting device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Preferably, as in the commercially available Georgia-Pacific P-12 dispenser, web material is dispensed in response to a pulling force (tension) being exerted on an exposed free end 15 of a working web 17 (see Fig. 3). Pulling of free web end 15 induces main feed roller 19 (see Fig. 3) to rotate a predetermined amount, and a sheet segment of predetermined length to be dispensed and cut by a feed roller mounted, cam actuated, knife 38 of the type disclosed in Rasmussen U.S. Patent No. 4,712,461 (hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). Web material may alternatively be dispensed by rotating a known-type ratchet wheel 21 by hand. The web transfer mechanism of the present invention is also useable with various other web feed/cutting mechanisms known in the art.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Sensor plate 25 should be configured to provide a downward force of sensor fingers 61 sufficiently small to avoid interference with feeding of working web 17, e.g., to prevent ripping or tearing of pre-feed portion 43. On the other hand, the bias force of plate 25, e.g., the moment created by the distributed weight of the plate, must be sufficient to pivot and disengage stop arm 27. Using gravity to provide the downward bias of sensor plate 25 has the advantages of simplicity and constancy as compared to a spring which may suffer from fatigue. Bias of sensor plate 25 may also be bolstered or supplied using common spring designs. Spring bias would be

especially desirable for possible alternative embodiments wherein sensor plate 25 is mounted to have an actuating movement lacking a downward component. The pivotal mount of ~~sensor plate 7 adjacent rear wall 25~~ sensor plate 25 adjacent rear wall 7 permits a relatively long lever arm and, since the plate can be readily pivoted to an open position, permits easy placement of a stub roll in receptacle 49.